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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: : Group No.  
Metzemacher, et al. :  
Serial No.: : Examiner:  
Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith :  
Attorney Docket No. P-1262 :  
For: COMPOSITION BASED ON :  
PRE-EXFOLIATED NANOCCLAY :  
AND USE THEREOF :

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Background

This application is a national phase application based on PCT/EP2004/000072 for filing with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. This application claims priority from the PCT application listed above as well as GB 0300374.6 filed on January 8, 2003 and DE 103 26 977.0 filed on June 12, 2003.